

COMMENT OF
THE DAY

Urban Council

ELECTED members of the Urban Council yesterday advanced some strong arguments for less cavalier treatment of the Council's Estimates by the Finance Committee.

For some time past there has been a growing realisation that in matters of finance the Urban Council, lacking authority, is placed in an invidious position. It can only make recommendations which may or may not be accepted by the Finance Committee. One effect in recent years has been to give members of the Council a sense of frustration; of love's labour lost.

Nothing is given closer attention by the Council than the Estimates. There is a full appreciation that public money is involved and that this must be spent carefully and wisely. The claim that the Select Committee on the Estimates prunes expenditure to the practical limit is, therefore, readily accepted, and it must be disheartening, as well as disconcerting, to find those minimum requirements still further slashed by the Finance Committee.

Mr. Brook Bernacchi suggested that at the very least, when Finance Committee considered the Estimates should be further pruned, the matter should be referred back to the Council, whose members are in a better position than the Finance Committee to decide how and in what direction additional cuts should be made.

THIS appears as being both sensible and logical. We would add too that courtesy seems to demand such a procedure. After all it is the Urban Council members who spend long hours on preparing and revising the Council's Estimates. They are in possession of all the facts and all the considerations which govern their recommendations. The Finance Committee is unaffiliated with the Council and therefore does not possess the same precise knowledge of the Council's requirements, and may not be able to appreciate its priorities.

The Urban Council and its functions are constantly expanding and the time appears to have arrived for Government seriously to consider modifying the rigid remote control to which the Council's finances are subjected.

The affairs of the Council are in the hands of trusted and conscientious citizens, who devote long and unrewarded hours in fulfilling their civic duty, and who deserve a somewhat more authoritative voice in the allocation of dollars for necessary departmental expansion and the improvement of health and social services.

ONE move in this direction has been suggested by Mr. Bernacchi. It is that rates and licence fees should be administered by the Council, and that after making fixed deductions, the Council should have the authority to distribute the balance in accordance with its own estimates.

Admittedly this would involve a break with tradition, but we doubt whether it would seriously interfere with the smooth functioning of the Colony's general financing system. We do not think it is a proposal that should be dismissed with the wave of a hand. There may be very sound arguments against it but if there are, these should be expounded by Government.

The Chairman of the Urban Council has promised members he will present a full picture of the possible arguments in support of the proposals advanced in connection with the Estimates. Government, on its part, over the Council and the public to give the proposals sympathetic consideration, and if it decides against them, to explain fully its reasons.



GAITSKELL WARNS EDEN

"We Won't Support Weakness In The Middle East"

P.M. LISTENS—THEN LEAVES FOR U.S.

London, Jan. 24.

The Prime Minister, Sir Anthony Eden, sat through a fierce House of Commons attack on his Middle East policies today a few hours before he was due to sail for talks with President Eisenhower.

A car waited nearby to rush him and the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Selwyn Lloyd, to Southampton, where they were embarking on the liner Queen Elizabeth.

The attack came from Mr. Hugh Gaitskell, making his first major speech as leader of the Labour opposition. It exposed the full extent of Britain's political rift over the Middle East.

Mr. Gaitskell told Sir Anthony Eden that if the Government continued to display weakness, confusion and in some respects incompetence—then he would not get any backing for his Middle East policy when he returned from Washington. Mr. Gaitskell said he was genuinely sorry to offer these criticisms on the eve of the Prime Minister's departure for Washington.

"We do so in no party spirit. We view the situation far more seriously than that," he said. "But we do charge that the policy of the Government in the past few weeks has been weak and dangerous."

IN ARAB FAVOUR
He accused the Government of allowing the balance of arms in the Middle East to be tilted in favour of the Arab countries.

"Many people believe that for the last two years, Egypt and Iraq have gained heavily from the delivery of certain modern weapons," he said. "Czechoslovakian supplies of arms to Egypt—which included substantial quantities of MIG fighters and some tanks—looked like giving the Arabs superiority both on the ground and in the air."

Mr. Gaitskell said there were two grave dangers. "The Arabs are bound to be encouraged to hope that in the not very distant future, they will have their revenge and they will have their war to eliminate Israel."

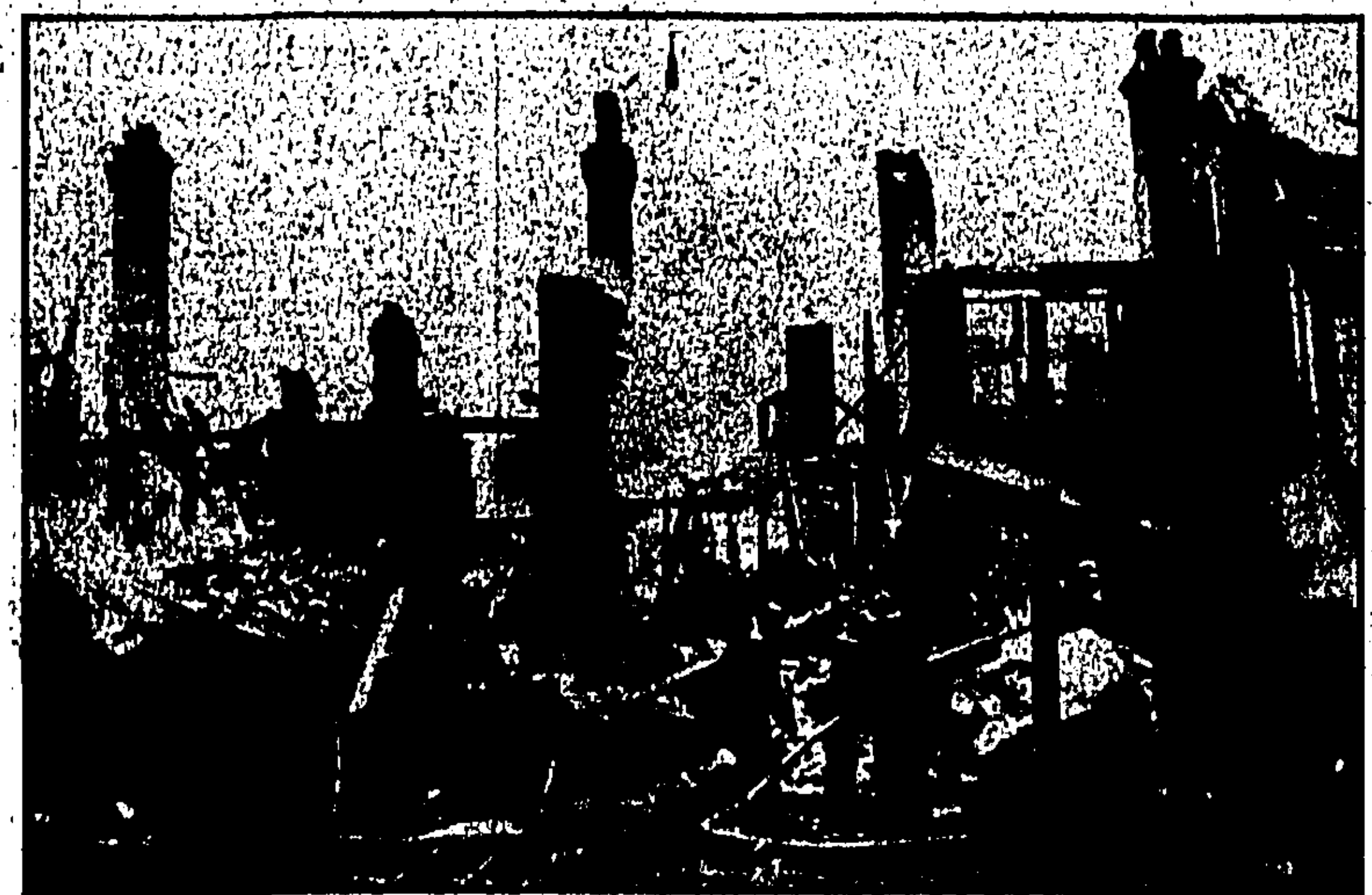
The second danger is that Israel, realising that the balance is being tilted against her and will be more and more, may take the opportunity while things are not so bad from her point of view to go in for preventive action."

The debate on the first day of Parliament's resumption from its Christmas vacation was on the "leakage" of surplus British arms to the Middle East through private dealers on the continent. But Mr. Gaitskell transformed it into a general debate on Middle East problems.

He said the situation demanded a meeting between Britain, France and the United States, the three powers who in 1950 pledged themselves to prevent a recurrence of the bitter Arab-Israeli war. Mr. Gaitskell asked whether Russia should be asked formally to join discussions to safeguard Middle East peace.

EDEN PROTESTS
At one point, Mr. Gaitskell stung Sir Anthony Eden into protest. This was when he criticised the Prime Minister's recent suggestion that Arab-Israeli peace could be established on new frontiers.

Mr. Gaitskell said "territorial adjustments under a general settlement are one thing. But territorial adjustments suggested out of Israel under the threat that they would not have arms to balance the Czech arms and not have the security of defence from the three signatories of the pact is a totally different thing."



Jet Plane Crash In Sussex

A bomb? No, but this was part of the damage caused to the Sussex village of Wadhurst when a Meteor jet fighter crashed on two bungalows last week in the high street. The crash caused a fire which damaged two other bungalows, a row of cottages, a hotel and a shop. Four people died.

The picture shows firemen working in the burning ruins of one of the bungalows struck by the plane. Part of the wrecked Meteor can be seen in the right foreground. —Reuterphoto.

National Assembly Battle Begins FIRST ROUND TO MR. FRANCE

Communists Help His Candidate Win

Paris, Jan. 24.

The Republican Front of the former Premier M. Pierre Mendes-France scored a first success tonight when Socialist Deputy Andre Le Troquer was elected President of the new French National Assembly.

Three ballots were needed in the election before M. Le Troquer was elected with Communist support.

M. Le Troquer was elected by 280 votes to 208 cast for the MRP candidate M. Pierre Schmitter, the outgoing President of the Assembly. In the first two ballots, no candidate secured the absolute majority of 281 votes needed for election. The third ballot was held on a straight vote as provided by the constitution in case of a deadlock.

REDS SWITCH
The turning point in the election came after the first ballot, when the Communists, who drew their own candidate, M. Marcel Cachin, "the Dean of the Assembly"—and swung their votes behind the Republican Front candidate.

On the first ballot, M. Pierre Schmitter headed the poll with 212 votes, followed by M. Marcel Cachin, 145, M. Andre Le Troquer, 83, and the Poujadist M. Jeanes Ruf 67. The figures for the second ballot were: M. Le Troquer, 279, M. Schmitter 217 and M. Ruf 56.

The election of the President of the National Assembly clears the way for the resignation of the "caretaker" Premier, M. Edgar Faure and the formation of a new government. Informed sources said M. Faure would hand in his resignation to the President M. Rene Coty later this evening. Political observers said the divisions among the centre parties, confirmed by today's vote, would in the future give both Communists and

NEW BID TO RESTRICT HK EXPORTS

Manchester, Jan. 24. The Lancashire cotton industry is to make another approach to the British Government to check the growing exports of cheap cloth from Hongkong and India, it was announced today.

The President of the Board of Trade, Mr. Peter Thorneycroft, has agreed to receive a delegation to discuss the matter. A meeting of the Cotton Board standing conference on overseas trade, representing all sections of the industry, was told this today. Last March, the conference sent a delegation to meet Sir Winston Churchill, then Prime Minister, and Mr. Thorneycroft. —Reuter.

CREW BRAWL ON HK SHIP

Colombo, Jan. 24. Saws, clubs and steel files were reportedly used when two rival factions among the crew of the Hongkong registered freighter "Universal Trader" clashed in Colombo harbour at midnight last night, it was disclosed today. Two men were injured. One of them, the second cook, was admitted to hospital. The Colombo harbour police boarded the ship and stopped the fighting. The police took one man, the second officer, into custody and he will appear in a magistrate's court tomorrow. —France-Press.

The Queen Going To Copenhagen

London, Jan. 24. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh have accepted an invitation to pay a state visit to Copenhagen in the Spring of 1957, it was announced from Buckingham Palace tonight. —France-Press.

H-bomb Lead?

Moscow, Jan. 25. A top Soviet Army general has claimed Soviet supremacy over the United States in the production of hydrogen weapons, according to a Ukrainian newspaper which has just reached Moscow. —Reuter.

END TENSION PLAN

ISRAEL & EGYPT COME TO TERMS

Jerusalem, Jan. 24.

Major-General E. L. M. Burns, United Nations Chief of Staff in Palestine, announced tonight that proposals aimed at easing tension in the El Auja demilitarised area on the Israel-Egyptian border were expected to be implemented in about one week.

The announcement came in a communique, which said: Egypt and Israel had accepted proposals by Mr. Dag Hammarskjold, United Nations Secretary-General to end the strife in the El Auja zone, scene of heavy fighting last October.

The communique, issued by United Nations headquarters in Jerusalem, said Egypt had already withdrawn her forces from the demilitarised zone and removed road obstacles. It said the Israel Government accepted Mr. Hammarskjold's proposals in its letter of January 4, 1956. —Reuter.

★ ★ ★

MP Asks Eden To Discuss China Trade Embargo

London, Jan. 24. The Prime Minister, Sir Anthony Eden, was asked today in the House of Commons to raise the question of the embargo on trade with China. In his talks with President Eisenhower in Washington, Mr. Harold Wilson, former Foreign Secretary indicated in the House on November 30 the scope of the China lists has been under study in consultation with the United States authorities. "As Mr. Wilson will understand, I am not prepared in advance of the Washington talks to disclose the items for discussion." —Reuter.

Bulganin Sends A Message To Ike

Washington, Jan. 24.

The Soviet Ambassador, Mr. Georgi Zarubin, will call on President Eisenhower tomorrow to deliver a personal message from Marshal Nikolai Bulganin, the Soviet Premier.

The White House Press Secretary, Mr. James Hagerty, made the announcement. He said he had no information whatever about the nature of Marshal Bulganin's message.

UNPRECEDENTED

There was speculation that it might deal with Mr. Eisenhower's aerial inspection plan for disarmament.

In reply to a question, Mr. Hagerty said that at no time during the Eisenhower administration has the Head of the Soviet Union requested his ambassador to make this sort of arrangement—that is, an arrangement for Mr. Zarubin to deliver a message to the White House.

Mr. Zarubin is to call at 4.30 p.m. G.M.T. —Reuter.

BULGANIN ILL?

London, Jan. 24.

The Soviet Premier Marshal Bulganin failed to attend another important diplomatic function in Moscow tonight, and the speculation is that he is ill. —United Press.



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Backdoor Entry For Hongkong Schoolteachers? SINGAPORE MINISTER UNDER FIRE

Singapore, Jan. 25. Singapore's Education Minister, Mr. Chew Seng-keo, came under fire in an editorial in the Straits Times today for his angry reaction to suggestions that he might be bringing expatriates from Hongkong into the Colony "by the back door."

The newspaper said the minister had only himself to blame in his recent journey to Hongkong, had attracted criticism from the President of the Federation of Government Employees' Unions.

not advertised locally first and only in Hongkong after the search here had failed. "That was the substance of the union's protest and it is justified in spite of Mr. Chew's outburst."

The newspaper pointed out that the dispute between the minister and the union should not be allowed to obscure the fact that 20 or 40 inspectors were needed. Singapore's problem was to keep existing standards from falling and there was real danger of this happening. Particularly in the Chinese schools, where more than half the staff were untrained. —Reuter.

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RUSSO-JAPANESE PEACE TALKS

Difficult Stage Reached In Negotiations

London, Jan. 24.

The Russo-Japanese peace talks have now reached a difficult stage.

Mr Jacob Malik and Mr Shunichi Matsumoto cleared finally all the minor points when they started the examination, clause by clause, of the draft treaty in a two-hour session today at the Soviet Embassy in London.

At the next session, scheduled to take place next Tuesday at the Japanese Embassy, hard work will have to be done if the talks, which now appear to be in earnest, are to pass the next and much more difficult hurdles.

Not Spectacular

During today's session the phraseology submitted in the Japanese draft was accepted on five points, with a few minor modifications, by the Soviet delegate. However, those five points had already been considered as practically settled for some time.

Although the progress accomplished today cannot be described as spectacular, it appears to have given quite a deal of encouragement in Japanese conference circles.

At today's meeting there was also a discussion between Mr Matsumoto and Mr Malik on the principle, or the spirit, of any eventual trade agreement between the two countries.

Only Two More

After the session, the following communiqué was issued:

"At a meeting the Japanese delegate, Mr Shunichi Matsumoto and the Soviet delegate, Mr Jacob Malik began the examination clause by clause of the draft peace treaty between Japan and the Soviet Union. The next meeting will be on January 31."

At the rate of one meeting a week, there seems to be time for only two more meetings before Mr Malik leaves London to take part in the Moscow Congress of the Communist Party—France-Press.

ABLE-BAKER ALPHABET TO GO

London, Jan. 24.

FROM March 1, "A" will no longer stand for "Able" nor "R" for "Roger" in the Royal Air Force.

The International Civil Aviation Organisation and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation have found that this alphabet used in air-to-air and air-to-ground radio-telephone conversations is not easily understood by foreigners.

So the RAF have decided to adopt the new system worked out by those two bodies.

Keeping One Roger

In the new scheme "A" stands for "Alpha" and "B" for "Bravo". Instead of "Baker", "L" for "Love" becomes "Lima" but love has not been forgotten altogether in the new alphabet as "J" has been changed from "Jig" to "Juliet" and "R" from "Roger" to "Romeo". The word "Roger", meaning "I have received your last transmission satisfactorily" will be kept by the RAF. Air crews, air traffic control staffs, and other members of the RAF are now at work learning the new alphabet for the change-over in March. —China Mail Special.



The US Army-developed anti-aircraft missile "Nike" shoots upward after a successful launching under Arctic conditions. Test was part of Operation "Front Jet", which was held at Fort Churchill, Canada, to determine the effects of sub-zero temperatures on the complex parts of the "Nike" weapon system.—Express Photo.

US Defence Officials Hit Back At House Sub-Committee

Washington, Jan. 24.

Highly placed Defence officials today fired back at a Democratic-controlled House Sub-committee which criticised Pentagon buying policies under Defence Secretary Charles E. Wilson.

These officials disclosed that the Defence Department will unify multi-billion dollar purchase programmes of the armed forces to reduce waste and save large sums.

They contended a House Government Operations Sub-committee used out-of-date information in preparing its criticism of Wilson, Navy Secretary Charles S. Thomas and Assistant Defence Secretary Thomas P. Pike.

Aroused Ire

The Sub-committee, headed by Rep. William L. Dawson, charged in a report disclosed by the United Press on Sunday that the Defence officials violated an "expressed mandate" of Congress that an integrated supply system be set up for the Army, Navy and Air Force.

One high Defence official said that the Sub-committee "failed to grasp the full significance" of present plans to curtail military buying of so-called commercial-type items such as

food, clothing, medical supplies and oil.

Food buying, storage and distribution to the Service already has been assigned to the Army, officials pointed out. They disclosed that the Navy soon will be made responsible for all medical supplies for the Services, the Army for clothing, the Air Force for oil and other petroleum products, and the Army for contracting for ground transportation.

The House Sub-committee report, which has not yet been approved by the full committee, and has aroused Republican ire, grew out of hearings last year following the Hoover Commission charges of waste and inefficiency in military buying.

Underestimated

Pentagon officials disclosed that they have rejected the Hoover Commission recommendation that a single supply organisation, amounting to a fourth military service, be set up in the Defence Department. They said that plan "over-emphasised the importance of civilian management and underestimated the importance and training of military supply experts" vital in wartime.—United Press.

Karachi, Jan. 24.

The Shah of Persia is expected to accept an invitation to visit Pakistan "but it is not sure whether he will stop at Karachi on his way home from his official visit to India set for next month," an official source said here today.

Pakistan invited the Shah to visit Karachi next month. —Reuters.

POP



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Partition Of Germany

NEW CHAIRMAN OF COAL BOARD



Mr. James Bowman (pictured here) is to become the new chairman of the National Coal Board. He takes over from Sir Hubert Houldsworth, the present chairman, when his term expires on July 31. Mr. Bowman, who is 57, was previously vice-president of the National Union of Mineworkers. He is the son of a blacksmith and started work when he was 15 at the Ashington Colliery. The salary of the chairman of the Coal Board is £7,500.—Reuterphoto.

Canadian Arms Shipments To Middle East

Ottawa, Jan. 24. Mr. Lester Pearson, Canadian External Affairs Minister, told the House of Commons today that Canada shipped 2,067,685 dollars (about £714,000) worth of arms to Israel and 771,121 dollars (about £274,400) worth to Egypt in 1954 and 1955.

Mr. Pearson said 16 Harvard-trained officers to Egypt and spare parts of them were responsible for practically the whole of the Egyptian figure.

"An impression may have been created that Canadian arms were flowing into that area (the Middle East) in great quantities," Mr. Pearson said. "That is not the case."

Arms shipped to the Middle East in the last two years included 75-million-round shells, anti-tank equipment, trucks and spare parts for Second World War Sherman tanks, 25-pounder guns and accessories, machine guns and 3.7-inch anti-aircraft guns.—Reuter.

A British Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS
1 Duplicates (6).
2 Climb (5).
3 Outlet (4).
4 Banished (6).
5 Accurate (5).
6 Threaten (6).
7 Volume (4).
8 Uncompensated (5).
9 Cracked (4).
10 Befriended (6).
11 Musical work (5).
12 Lasso (6).
13 Detail (4).
14 Scolded (5).
15 Painful (6).

DOWN
1 Ship's company (4).
2 Formal (4).
3 Level (4).
4 Digitized (6).
5 Spire (7).
6 Unyielding (7).
7 Recorded (7).
8 Fruit (6).
9 Frankness (7).
10 Torment (7).
11 Fabulous female (7).
12 Rage (6).
13 Projectile (6).
14 Domesticated (4).
15 Expired (4).
16 Commotion (4).

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD—Across: 1. Besom, 4. Edie's, 8. Armada, 10. Pledge, 12. Inward, 14. Despair, 17. Tie, 19. Aerated, 20. Rotunda, 22. Deep, 23. Letters, 27. Sore, 28. Tilt, 30. Tangle, 31. Riding, 32. Serge, 33. Down, 1. Brand, 2. Sump, 3. Media, 5. Dope, 6. Credit, 7. Stowed, 9. Amiable, 11. Intact, 13. Present, 15. Dime, 16. Pencil, 18. Rear, 20. Editor, 21. Tamed, 24. Agony, 25. Scape, 26. Swindle, 28. Rink.

BONN LEADERS SUGGEST NEHRU AS MEDIATOR

Bonn, Jan. 24.

Two West German government leaders proposed today that Premier Jawaharlal Nehru of India should act as cold war mediator to end the division of Germany.

Vice-Chancellor Franz Bruecher, who returned on Sunday from a 12-day official visit to India, told a news conference: "I should not consider mediation by Mr. Nehru interference in the affairs of other people. I hope his planned visit to Bonn later this year will help prepare such a successful mediation."

The Foreign Minister, Dr. Heinrich von Brentano, speaking at a Foreign Press Association lunch, said: "Although I do not envisage any direct intervention by Mr. Nehru, I could imagine he might be able to contribute by doing something to soften the hard fronts between East and West."

Herr Bruecher told his news conference he had not discussed with Mr. Nehru the possibility that India would establish diplomatic relations with Communist East Germany. Chancellor Konrad Adenauer has warned he will break off diplomatic relations with any State which does.

"I have no reason, however, to think there is any question of India establishing diplomatic relations with the Soviet zone Republic in the near future," said Herr Bruecher.

Very Clearly

He said he had explained the Bonn government's position on the German issue "very clearly" during his New Delhi talks.

"The Indian statesmen did not say so to my explanations," he added. "During my talks I also told the Indian Premier that in the Federal government's opinion there is still only one Germany. I told him there could not be two Germanies because the Soviet zone population has no way of expressing its opinion."

According to Reuter, West Germany has made proposals on the German unity question to the United States and British leaders due to meet in Washington next week.

Dr. von Brentano said that though President Eisenhower and Sir Anthony Eden had other urgent problems to discuss, they could not disregard the German question.

Dr. von Brentano said he would do everything to develop a further initiative on the German question in the next few months.

He said that this initiative would not be a new but rather a "continuation of the policy followed up-to-date."

It should be a joint initiative pursued by all the Western powers. It would not be allowed to interfere with the execution of other policies such as the strengthening of the Western European Union and the development of a six-nation common market on the European continent and the six-nation "Euratom" project for atomic co-operation.

Made Clear

Dr. von Brentano said it must be made clear to all that the German unity problem was not an obstacle to understanding between nations. It was fruitless to aim at the relaxation of East-West tension without first eliminating the causes of the tension.

Asked if he considered that the American presidential election campaign would interfere with preparations for a new four-power conference on Germany, Dr. von Brentano said this should be no reason.

He said there should be adequate diplomatic preparation for the next conference, so that each of the powers knew some of the views of the others in advance. But he was opposed to too much publicity at such conferences. "Perhaps publicity is the enemy of success," he said.

Determined

Dr. von Brentano said West Germany was determined to set up a European common market "as quickly as possible." She also envisaged the common exploitation of atomic energy as vital for political, social and economic reasons. The Cabinet was unanimously behind him on this point, he said.—United Press & Reuter.

No Discussions On Burma-China Frontier

Rangoon, Jan. 24.

The Burmese Prime Minister, U Nu, said today he would not be meeting the Chinese Prime Minister, Mr. Chou En-lai, to discuss the demarcation of the Sino-Burmese frontier as was reported in a local paper on Saturday.

Speaking at a press conference, U Nu stated that the Burmese Home Minister, Bo Khin Maung Gane, and other high officials would be leaving next month for the village of Lwaje, in North Burma, to meet Chinese officials from Yunnan Province.

Tribesmen—Both sides would discuss the movements of tribesmen across the frontier.

U Nu said that trade and other matters would also be discussed. He added that the Burmese Ambassador to Peking, U Hla Maung, now in Rangoon, would take up "other matters" with the Chinese government affecting the frontier. U Nu did not indicate the exact nature of Hla Maung's mission.—Reuter.

More Money For UN Children's Fund

United Nations, Jan. 24. Eleven governments have pledged increased contributions to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in 1956. It was announced today.

Turkey will quadruple its 1955 contribution to \$107,000. Iran with \$200,000, Belgium with \$150,000 and the Philippines with \$90,000 have pledged about twice as much as last year. Other increases include West Germany, which will give \$225,000, Switzerland, \$210,000 and Iraq, \$20,000.—United Press.



Sir Winston Churchill's Lion Leaves Quarantine

Out of quarantine at the London Zoo now is Rusty, the year-old lion which was presented to Sir Winston Churchill by the Lion Club International, Atlantic City, USA, to replace his former lion, Rota. Rusty has been in the Zoo's quarantine station since he arrived in Britain by air last July.—Reuterphoto.

PLANT BLOOMS IN ANTARCTIC

Aboard Flagship Glacier, Antarctic, Jan. 22.

There is plant life in the Antarctic, after all. The plant, which is reported to have put forth three magenta-coloured blossoms in the past 42 days, lives in a pot aboard this US Navy ice-breaker.

It belongs to Seaman Blaine Whit, on temporary duty aboard the USS Arneb, 400 miles east of this base on McMurdo Sound.

Unknown

In his absence it is being given tender care by two of his shipmates, Seamen Burton Lattimer and C.D. Fields of Bristol, Tenn.

The plant, its species unknown to all aboard, was a farewell gift of some New Zealand maid when the Navy held open house before the departure for Antarctica.

Each day Lattimer and Fields water it, carrying it topside for a brief sunning in the cold air, and then returning it to its position of honour in their quarters.

The plant has thrived under such treatment. Its two erect stems say it has bloomed three times and described its blossoms as "like a daisy" and "like a sunflower."

There are five separate stalks emerging from the flower pot and the tallest has doubled its height to eight inches. The leaves appear to be a cross between a subtropical cactus and a coconut palm.

There have been rumours of a pine forest in the Antarctic but no one has actually seen it.

British Capt. Robert Scott was reported to have drilled into a mixture of frozen volcanic ash and moraine—gravelly earth pushed up by glaciers—and planted coniferous seedlings during his 1901-1904 expedition.—United Press.

New Offensive

The Board has begun a new offensive to force every poultry farmer in the State to market his eggs the official way.

RESULT No. 1: Top-grade eggs have gone up to 5s 6d a dozen. More increases are expected.

RESULT No. 2: Housewives are demanding the abolition of the Board. They say prices would tumble under free competition.

But the Board's bureaucrats are digging in. They have ordered their secret police to see that all protective regulations are obeyed.

This private Gestapo can walk into any poultry farmer's home or grocer's shop, search and inspect books. If they catch any egg man dodging dues they can get him fined.

It is the housewife who pays at the rate of 10½d on a dozen eggs. And still the Board lost £1,500,000 last year.

The cry is growing: "Away with this Board. It is pricing eggs off our breakfast plates."—London Express Service.

'Wave-Meter' For Seabed

The Hague, Jan. 25.

A new instrument for measuring the movement of the sea, which it is hoped will give important information to enable warnings to be given against flooding, is being tried out at Scheveningen Harbour near here.

The instrument, which also measures the height of waves, has been placed on the seabed. It contains a complicated mechanism operated by the movement of the waves. This produces records which can be studied at inland.—China Mail Special.

NO PROGRESS IN AUST. DOCK STRIKE

Melbourne, Jan. 24.

No progress in the Australian docks strike was reported this morning. Service units have been alerted to man the docks within 24 hours.

The Trade Minister, Mr. McEwen, estimated that continued interruption in Australian exports would cost the country A\$1,000,000 per day in wool shipments, A\$2,000,000 per week in wheat and barley shipments and millions in loss of orders for meat, fruit, sugar and coal.

Twenty thousand water-side workers were involved and more than 150 ships were now idle.

Shipowners applied to the Arbitration Court for an interim award prohibiting the Waterside Workers Federation from taking part in any bans, limitations or restrictions on work.

The application asked to have a penalty clause inserted in the water-side workers' award. It also sought reopening hearing on part of their log on claims.—China Mail Special.

Volcanic Ash

There have been rumours of a pine forest in the Antarctic but no one has actually seen it.

British Capt. Robert Scott was reported to have drilled into a mixture of frozen volcanic ash and moraine—gravelly earth pushed up by glaciers—and planted coniferous seedlings during his 1901-1904 expedition.—United Press.

ECAFE COMMITTEE MEETING OPENS

Bangalore, Jan. 24.

The Japanese delegate Mr. Koichiro Asakai was in the chair at the formal inauguration ceremony of the eighth session of the ECAFE Committee on Industry and Trade which opened here today.

Mr. Ashraf Said, leader of the Pakistan delegation, was elected chairman for the session. His nomination was proposed by Thailand and supported by Korea. The delegates from Afghanistan and Vietnam were elected vice-chairmen.

The Soviet delegate abstained during the voting for Vietnam on the grounds that her delegate did not represent the whole country.

The committee later unanimously approved the Soviet delegate's motion to send a message to Mr. Nehru, Prime Minister of India, conveying greetings "to you and through you to the Indian people on the occasion of national day of the Indian Republic."

India: A Symbol

The motion was supported by the delegates from the Philippines, France and Burma.

The Philippines' delegate, Dr. Perfecto E. Laurel, said: "India is not only strategically located, being almost in the centre of Asia and the Far East, but she is also a symbol of the great problems confronting the world."

PIRACY IN PARIS French Couturiers Worried By Illegal Copying

Paris, Jan. 24.

Piracy of French couture fashions is conversation topic number one at this headquarters of the fashion world today.

As the curtain rises on another season, the multi-million dollar export industry, directly employing hundreds of thousands of workers, including the tremendous textile mills, couture and ready-to-wear designers, workers, and trimming and accessory firms, is being "sold down the river."

Since the French capital reclaimed its title as fashion leader at the end of World War II, these Paris collections, which set fashion trends throughout the world, have become a major source of black-market trading.

Confidential checking by the Chambre Syndicate of the Haute Couture, on buyers and press who are allowed into the openings of the collections, is comparable to the investigations conducted by the American FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) on a suspect party.

Cut Silhouette

A professional fashion expert, who has a good "eye" can attend an opening, see as many as 250 models—and is capable of accurately sketching up to 70 per cent of the collection immediately afterwards.

Leakages have been traced not only to members of the press and buyers, but to sources within the great fashion houses themselves. Workers in the sewing rooms, who may cut a silhouette or detailed pattern during the day, can easily repeat the pattern on a piece of old newspaper at home that same evening.

A paper copy is promptly mailed to undisclosed sources. Afterwards M. Dior or M. Givenchy wonders why his original, but identical, brainchild appears in certain foreign fashion collections before it has even been shown at the opening of his own collection.

This illicit traffic, with its million dollar repercussions, often brings the style pirates more money in a season than the big couturier can earn by the fruit of his own endeavours, and genius.

Suing US Firm

Many observers here believe that fashion gangsters, if not checked, will succeed in killing the goose that lays the original golden egg.

Four leading Paris designers, Christian Dior, the house of Jacques Fath, Jeanne Lanvin and Jean Patou, are at present suing the Frederick Milton copy service in New York for unauthorized reproductions to an amount of 1,350,000 dollars (about £447,500). In France fashion copyright is legally protected like any patent.

It has been proven that semi-accurate sketches of models from these houses are available in New York City a few days, and often only a matter of hours, after the original collection of models has been presented in Paris.

Sign Paper

For the past few years, Frederick Milton has offered this service to his clients for a fee of 1,000 dollars (about £340) available from two to four times a year.

The original autumn and winter collections of 1955 ended in Paris on August 3, 1955. By August 6, 142 sketches from Dior; 91 from Fath; 50 from Patou, and 21 from Lanvin, were available on request in New York City.

Each buyer and newspaper correspondent or magazine editor who attends the French openings, has to sign a paper pledging the bearer to prosecution against unlawfully copying of designs or supplying information to unauthorized sources. The security check by the Chambre Syndicate de la Haute Couture appears airtight. Yet the leakage somehow continues.

High Fee

In addition to the store-mentioned methods, it has been reported that one woman correspondent goes to the length of concealing a tiny cigarette-sized camera in the floral trimming of her hat.

Before World War II, an entire team collaborated, taking separate photographs. Each member concentrated on a specific part of the silhouette—sleeves, collars, and sleeves; another on skirt lengths and hip treatments and so on.

A few hours later, the various skeleton photographs were assembled and posted off to copyists for a high fee.

This season, couturiers are almost frightened to give even the customary "forward notes."

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIND IN CRETE

Chronological Claims Said Upset

Hraklion, Jan. 24.

Professor Doro Levi, director of the Italian School of Archaeology in Athens, has made valuable finds on the site of the ancient Minoan Palace of Fajstos, near Heraklion, which, he claims, upset the chronological table established by the eminent British archaeologist Sir Arthur Evans.

Sir Arthur Evans, who discovered King Minos' Palace at Knossos, placed the beginning of Minoan culture "around 3700 B.C."

On the basis of his finds at Fajstos, Professor Levi claims that the Minoan culture started 400 years later.

Two More Phases

Professor Levi's excavations brought to light two more phases of the building of the Minoan Palace of Fajstos, the oldest of which dates back to 2000 B.C.

He found a great number of ceramics, including vases and urns of various shapes and an object made of terracotta which he believes was used as a bird-cage.

Some 10,000 beautifully decorated seals were also unearthed.

The ruins of the palace revealed a highly elaborate drainage system, school-rooms and bathing pools.—China Mail Special.

CURB ON PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

Berlin, Jan. 24.

The East German Government has taken new measures to curb the profits of private enterprise and prevent private manufacturers from benefiting from state subsidies on raw materials.

Neues Deutschland, the main Communist Party newspaper, reported today the prices of furniture made by state-owned factories had been lowered by about 10 per cent while private manufacturers had been obliged to raise theirs to bring them in conformity.

Previously, furniture made in private factories had been considerably cheaper and had sold far better.

Bitter Complaints

This "curb by price fixing" on private manufacturers followed bitter complaints at the meeting of the Communist Party Central Committee last October.

"The private sector of the economy was making enormous profits and playing a far too important part in the life of the nation."

Since then, there has been a whole series of decrees aimed at limiting and controlling the production of goods.

THERE'S ALWAYS UPSTAIRS *by* CUMMINGS

London Express Service

CAIROLI ON THE RIGHT—WITH A BOY WHO DIDN'T BLAME

The world's too short of clowns. It needs Carroll.

contains more than 2,000 names.

Superbly elegant - Precisely accurate
 Rolex offer a miniature watch of superb elegance, yet with a movement large enough to be a marvel of accuracy—truly the best obtainable!

"I first began clowning when I was 13," he said. "My father put the make-up on thick all over me. I hated it. Ever since then, I've been clowning."

low my make-up is only my you: u something

LOSS IN TRANSIT

Something of the cost is shown in the Roll of Honour at the end of the book. It contains more than 3,000 names.

Of every nine men in the Army, one wore the badge of the Corps. They operated not only on the land but at sea and in the air.

tains more than 2,000 names.



Stand Back, Tommy Atkins. The toast in the Spot of Honour at the Top of the Sports Parade this week is to the Ladies... and in particular to Kim Campbell and her gallant and enthusiastic little band of Services' hockey players who won a surprise but worthy 2-1 victory over Craigengower CC at the week-end.

The team has not had the best of luck this season and have only managed to carry on in face of set-backs and difficulties. This fine victory should encourage Kim Campbell and her colleagues to still bigger and better successes.

Congratulations to Army South cricketers for their fighting win in the match against the Royal Air Force on Saturday. The issue was in the balance for a long time against a relentless clock and a very competent set of opponents. It was touch and go all the way and the fruits of victory were therefore all the sweeter, especially as they put South in a strong position in the chase for the Championship.

His superb judgement and sure handling of the ball brought him praise from all sides and this may well be a step to still higher honours. McInnes and Morris who played in the first game, and White who was in the Selection side with Charlesworth on Saturday, all played hard and well and proved themselves worthy representatives of the Army.

INTER-UNIT CRICKET

The draws for the Major and Minor Units Inter-Unit Cricket Competition have produced some fine games and endless speculation as to the eventual winners. The competitions are played on a knock-out basis and 15 Med Regt have shown the right spirit by already knocking out their Royal Artillery colleagues of 19th Fd Regt. Three first round games will be played this afternoon.

Royal Engineers meet 1 North Staffs at KCC. Northamptonshire tackle HK Signal Regt at Rerecree and 1 Kings Own come down from Farnham to meet RASC at Sookunpoo.

FINAL REMINDER

The Hon. Secretary of the Army Football Association has asked me to give a final reminder to all those who wish to buy tickets for the forthcoming Army-Eastern Senior Shield Semi-final that no applications can be considered after January 30.

The pre-sale of tickets in the civilian community will be heavy and with such a demand it is regretted that it will not be possible for the Secretary to hold back tickets to satisfy any late applications.

There is already every indication that there will be a capacity crowd and if you want to be sure of getting the game, you should forward particulars of your requirements to Hon. Secy, Army FA, c/o Camp Commandant, HQLF.

A big gathering of rugby enthusiasts got plenty to shout about at Boundary Street last week when the semi-finals of the Hongkong stage of the FARELF Rugby Championships were played off.

The success that has attended the Royal Artillery in their rugby this season encouraged many to forecast an all-Gunners final and when 74 LAA Regt disposed of the challenge of Hongkong Signal Regt in an uneventful manner in the first game, the forecast was half-way to being satisfied.

In the first half-half of their game against 1 King's Own, 15 Medium Regt, looked as though they were going to complete the Gunners' double, but even after turning round with a six points lead they were unable to suppress the lively infantrymen and went down fighting by 16 points to 6.

IMPRESSIVE

The second half showing by the King's Own was most impressive and their final tie with 74 LAA Regt should be a tough, tight and thrilling affair and if full-back Bishop can repeat his excellent display of kicking there may be great joy in the Fanning Area on final night. Incidentally there has been a change in the date of this big event. The game will now be played on Wednesday, February 1, and the organisers hope that it will be possible to stage it at the Police Stadium. I hope to have full particulars very soon.

One of the big disappointments connected with the current Colony Boxing Championships is the non-participation of Allison, the Land Forces Middleweight Champion, who is unfit. He is in good company in this respect for McInnes of 74 LAA Regt is also forced to stand down due to a damaged knuckle. All this is of course a great pity for both of these boxers would have stood a fine chance of advancing to the final rounds of the competitions.

The semi-finals will be staged tonight at the Southern Ground and the successful boxers will go forward to the finals on Friday evening at the same arena.

Congratulations to Charlesworth, the Army goalkeeper who put on such a fine display for the Hongkong Selection against Western Sports last Saturday.

The FARELF Inter-Unit Final between the Hongkong and Singapore Base District will be played at Sookunpoo on Monday, February 13. This will be followed on Tuesday by the FARELF Inter-District Championship between Land Forces Hongkong and Singapore Base District.

TEAM BOXING

The draw for the Hongkong Stage of the FARELF Team Boxing Championship has now been made. It is divided into North and South Sections and the pairings are as follows:—(North), 7 Hussars v 1 Northampton; 1 North Staffs v 1 Kings Own (South) Combined Workshops v 27 HAA Regt. The winner of that match will meet 74 LAA Regt.

The selectors will meet soon to consider nominations for the 3 places at each weight for the FARELF Individual Boxing Championships at Singapore. Consideration will be given to all suitable candidates even if they did not take part in the recent Land Forces Championships. Names of any boxers who fall into this category should be forwarded to the DOPT as soon as possible.

The entry list for the Coldbeck Cup is now closed. Sixteen teams will go into the hat and particulars of the draw will be circulated later.

Straight Lad Has No Chance In Champion

Says RICHARD BAERLEIN

The complete eclipse of Miss Dorothy Pagot's six-year-old, Straight Lad, in a moderate handicap last week shows just how bad the novice hurdlers really are this season.

He had beaten most of those who showed winning form and, although in that race he beat his market rivals with considerable ease, Prince Stephen ran away from him over the last flight.

Prince Stephen's form was not good enough to suggest that Straight Lad is anything but a second-class handicapper at present.

He may improve with experience, but for this year he will have no chance at Cheltenham.

There is still some hope that the four-year-olds are

not quite as bad as their older rivals.

But, of those in the Triumph Hurdle at Hurst Park on March 10, it is to be feared that very few will measure up to the French horses.

At present Roman Festival is undoubtedly the best English challenger, and he will be receiving 10lb. from the French-trained Tall Chief.

BETTER ON FLAT

In flat races Tall Chief was unquestionably the better, but it has been proved time and again that form on the flat is no criterion over hurdles.

Roman Festival may pick up a further penalty between now and March 10, putting him still closer to Tall Chief in the weights.

Only two other English horses in the Triumph can be given the remotest chance at present.

Square Dance, trained by Fulke Walwyn, and owned by the Duchess of Norfolk, came out last week to gain a runaway victory in his first appearance over hurdles. He was rather disappointing on the flat but, in the Welsh Derby, finished a head behind Roman Festival.

He failed to win during the season, but there is a hope that hurdling has restored his interest in racing. While it is doubtful whether he will measure up to the required standard, he cannot yet be dismissed completely.

Peter Cazalet produced a smart four-year-old when Zucarelli countered home at Hurst Park in heavy going.

Zucarelli had been well beaten by Roman Festival at Kempton, but that was his first outing, and he has obviously made considerable improvement.

His next appearance is awaited with interest, for he finished nine lengths in front of Rejoicing at Hurst Park, yet Straight Lad had finished five lengths in front of Rejoicing, giving him a slone.

Rejoicing was giving Zucarelli 18lb. It is obvious that Zucarelli will have to make considerable further improvement, for all this form still makes Straight Lad the best novice and his limitations have been fully exposed.

Apart from Straight Lad at Newbury, Clive Magie gave further proof that he is not in love with chasing and his confidence has been completely shaken for the time being. He is best left alone until he can prove he has recovered.

Two maiden hurdlers who will not be long in winning are Le Glave and Fox King. Le Glave was making his first appearance and in finishing fourth gave a most satisfactory performance.

Fox King was running for the second time. He was a long way behind at halfway but ran on well up the straight to suggest that his winning turn is near at hand.

(London Express Service). (COPYRIGHT)

THAILAND'S SUPHAPHUN



Thailand's Sunthorn Suphaphun displays his strong forehand smash in this picture when partnering Mrs Rumpal Slobol. They were beaten by Hongkong's Robert Tay and Miss Helen Kwong in a Mixed Doubles exhibition match played at the Craigengower Cricket Club last week. Tay and Miss Kwong won 15-12, 8-15, 15-11.—China Mail Photo.

LOOKING AT SPORT

Enthusiasm Can Make Up For Hutton's Absence

Says DENNIS HART

So Len Hutton passes from the cricket scene.

A blow indeed to England. The English batting has been so unreliable in recent years that home fans were hoping Hutton would be there to bear the brunt of the Australian attack this summer.

The Australians know how much one man can mean to a side. They haven't been the same since Bradman retired.

Will England similarly slip with Hutton's going? It is true that the team had to get along without him last summer and won the series against South Africa. But it was mainly thanks to the bowlers.

Yet the effect of Hutton's retirement has, I fancy, already been lessened—by Len himself. Announcing his decision well in advance of the Australian series Hutton has cleared the air at the outset. England can now get down to team planning unhampered by doubts.

Before, it was a question of if Hutton plays so-and-so drops down in the order and out goes so-and-so. This would have gone on throughout the series if Hutton had decided his fitness from match to match.

Now England knows where she stands.

NATURAL GAME

With no Hutton-in-the-making on view England's openers must make up for that lack of technical ability with Hutton-like concentration. This does not mean sitting on the spot,

feet firmly entrenched behind the crease.

They can play their natural game, give full rein to their stroke. What must be curbed are the lazy shots which have cost England so many an early wicket.

In short skipper Peter May has got to have his team one hundred per cent behind him. To bring this about is a big job for one of the youngest cricketers ever to lead England. It is especially hard on one who is shy.

But there is nothing shy about May's cricket. His batting is full-blooded and glorious, no matter how difficult the situation. It is through example that May can inspire his teammates, whether they are young or older.

That, I think, will be the keynote of the English side this year—enthusiasm. And with the youthful experience of batsmen like May and Cowdrey to temper it, the Ashes are hardly gained by Len Hutton can be retained.—London Express Service. (COPYRIGHT)

Sticks and Selectors

By HENRY LONGHURST

The tournament for the President's Putter of the Oxford and Cambridge Golf Society, normally a gathering of young and old who play on level terms on the course and talk broadly speaking, the same language off it, takes on this year a slightly sterner significance in that a four-year hunt has now been set in motion for candidates for international honours. And some of the younger and more forceful players at Rye must clearly be among them. Rather as the railway guard comes down the corridor announcing "Card sharpers on the train," the warning goes round Rye "Selectors in the sandhills."

Prospects for the young gentlemen in question are better than they have been for many years past—though for a reason which may till now have escaped them. Commenting on our search for talent for future Walker Cup teams, the London correspondent of Associated Press, Mr. Sterling Slappey, informed American readers as follows: "The Lords of British Golf have decided that their Walker Cup players will have to be the best golfers in the land from now on and that the old school won't be a prime factor for making the squad. The Royal and Ancient club, ruling body of golf in Great Britain, said in the future only the best possible players will be selected for the amateur Walker Cup teams that meet the United States."

FIRST SLIPPERY

The greens are fast and slippery, particularly with the "bone" still in the ground from overnight, and are surrounded by little hollows from which it is only too easy in moments of crisis to skim the ball across the green off the sole of a niblick. Once in fifty times, perhaps, such a "skimmer" may strike the flagstick and be arrested in its wild career, and this certainly causes much gnashing of teeth or the part of the opposition. But the saving in time is truly remarkable and I cannot help feeling that this, together with the simplicity of the new rule, will lead to its universal acceptance.

Indeed, the general musing about which is saved by these simple alterations in the rules is so impressive as to make one suspect that further search might reveal quite a number of other ways in which we could reduce the solemn time-wasting earnestness with which so many people play today.

Play Anywhere

Frank Story is the most versatile Rugby footballer in Yorkshire. Already this season he has played in every back division for Hull City Police, and has recently been moved into the pack. In the specialised job of hooker, too.

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"YOU'VE BURIED THAT AT SEA GUNNER"

"THAT'S A GONNER MISTAKE"

"THE SLOSH INTO THE THICK GORGE"

"AND THE MORE SPECTACULAR 'PLONK IN THE LAKE'"

SUCH ODORS AS WHISKY AND SODA, GIN AND VERMOUTH SHOULD PROVE REWARDINGLY DETECTABLE BY GOLFERS.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

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giving details of a free course
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Jesuit Fathers, P.O. Box 5312,
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NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

"LAOMEDON"
Disputed cargo in this vessel will
be surveyed by Messrs. Goddard &
Daugherty at 11:30 a.m. on January 27, 1956, and
consignees are requested to have
their representatives present during
the survey.BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,
Agents

Hongkong 25, January 1956.

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Of Taxes
THEY HAUNT TAILOR
OF BIGGIN HILL

London, Jan. 24.

Ghosts have haunted Harry Frayne's
little tailor's shop in Biggin Hill ever since
1940.They are friendly, heroic ghosts,
because most of the Spitfire and Hurricane
boys who fought the Battle of Britain
from the famous airfield were uniforms
made by him. And a good many died
wearing them."Get your kit from Frayne,"
is a station tradition which a
new generation of Biggin Hill
boys, the Hunter Jet pilots, carry
on.But a different sort of ghost
may soon end the tradition: the
ghost of taxes of long ago.
I Remember Those Days
Mr Frayne has been told he
owes about £4,000 to the
Income Tax men. And if he
pays it his little shop will shut.
Yesterday, a few hundred
yards from the airfield where
the Hurricanes roared in 1940,
"Frayne" sat cross-legged on
his cluttered work-table and
talked about his problem.
"I'm a tailor, not a book-
keeper. I kept my accounts as
best I could, but there wasn't
much time in the war. The tax
men are going back 20 years
and I threw those books away
long ago."
"I remember those days
though, and the boys who came
to me," "Sailor" Malan, "Paddy"Finucane, "Cot-eyes" Cunning-
ham, and "Tinlegs" Bader—I've
done work for 'em all.
"Malan, I remember, was a
quiet chap. He didn't say much
about how he wanted his
uniform. But he was particular
about it when he got it.
"I've still got a souvenir from
him. The night he left Biggin
Hill I jokingly asked for a lock
of his hair.
"He handed me the poker he
was using on his office fire.
"Keep this instead," he said.
"The fighter boys used to like
their 'trade-mark' on their
uniform—the top button of
their tunic was always undone.
The tunic was made that way.
"Sometimes they never col-
lected their uniforms. I remem-
ber a chap called Ogilvie who
stroled in one afternoon.
"Try to finish it for the party
this evening," he said. He
never came back.Can You Fix This?
"And the chap who landed
one day and came straight down
to the shop. A bullet had rip-
ped the front of his tunic and
gone straight through his sleeve
and his arm. 'Can you fix this?'
he asked me calmly.
"I still get orders from old
Biggin Hill boys all over the
world.
"But all that may be over
now. I shall pack up if I have
to pay this money."
"Frayne," a Somerset man,
where he is almost a legend. If
his shop shuts, part of Biggin
Hill's tradition will die.World Bank
President
For EgyptWashington, Jan. 24.
World Bank president
Eugene Black has accepted
an invitation to go to Egypt
and is expected to arrive
there on January 27, the
World Bank announced to-
day.
Mr Black was invited for
"further discussion" on the high
Aswan dam project. The World
Bank has expressed readiness
to make a \$200,000,000 loan for
the project, providing its con-
ditions can be met.
It is understood that the pur-
pose of his trip is to make an
effort to close as rapidly as
possible the proposed loan.
The text of the bank's an-
nouncement:

Accepted

"Following the talk on the
Aswan high dam project which
took place in Washington last
month between the Finance
Minister of Egypt and the
management of the World Bank,
Colonel Nasser, Prime Minister
of Egypt, has invited Mr Eugene
Black, president of the bank, to
visit him in Cairo for further
discussion.This invitation has been cor-
dially accepted by Mr Black who
will arrive in Egypt on January
27," United Press.SECOND
CABINET
MEETINGLondon, Jan. 24.
British Premier Sir Anthony
Eden tonight held his second
Cabinet meeting of the day just
three hours before he was due
to leave London for his official
visit to the United States.
The Cabinet met in Sir An-
thony's private office in the
House of Commons while a
heated debate was going on in
Parliament over the delivery of
arms to the Middle East.
The Ministers examined
various questions which were
left over from their morn-
ing session. Sir Anthony
will leave for Washington
tonight in the Queen Elizabeth,
which he will board at
Southampton—France-Press.Treasure Hunt
Possible
In SingaporeSingapore, Jan. 25.
A Chinese syndicate may
have for nearly half million
sterling worth of buried treasure
hidden in the colony in 1945 by
a Japanese officer, a Singapore
paper reported today.
The newspaper said the
treasure, seized by the Japanese
Army during World War Two,
has been sealed under concrete
by a high ranking officer before
Japan's surrender.
The treasure was believed now
under a big Singapore building.
—Reuter.VOTING IN
FINLANDSeventy per cent of the Fin-
nish electorate last week cast
their votes to choose the 300
electors who will in turn elect
the country's President.
Pictured is the current Pre-
sident, 85-year-old J.K.
Paasikivi, casting his vote.
—Express Photo.

Mail Notices

The latest times of posting
shown below are those for re-
gistered correspondence posted
at G.P.O. Hongkong. The latest
posting times elsewhere which,
in general, are earlier than the
G.P.O. times can be ascertained
by enquiry at the local office.
The latest posting times for
registered articles are generally
one hour earlier than the times
shown below. Particulars re-
garding parcel mails can be
ascertained by enquiry at any
post office.WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25
By Air
Formosa, U.S.A., 6 p.m.
Thailand, India, Pakistan, Middle
East, Africa, Great Britain &
Europe, 6 p.m.
Japan, 6 p.m.
By Surface
China, People's Republic, 10.30 a.m.
Malaya, 1 p.m.
Pakistan, (Portuguese India,
Parcel via Karachi), 1 p.m.
Japan, U.S.A., C. & S. America,
4 p.m.
Australia, 4 p.m.
Macao, 6 p.m.THURSDAY, JANUARY 26
By Air
Formosa, U.S.A., 6 p.m.
Thailand, India, Pakistan, Middle
East, Africa, Europe, 6 p.m.
Japan, 6 p.m.
By Surface
China, People's Republic, 10.30
a.m.
Malaya, 1 p.m.
Pakistan, (Portuguese India,
Parcel via Karachi), 1 p.m.
Japan, U.S.A., C. & S. America,
4 p.m.
Australia, 4 p.m.
Macao, 6 p.m.FRIDAY, JANUARY 27
Formosa, Japan, Korea, Okinawa,
11 a.m.
Hawaii, U.S.A., 1 p.m.
Philippines, Australia, New Zea-
land, 2 p.m.Formosa, 6 p.m.
Korea, 6 p.m.
U.S.A., Canada, 6 p.m.
Thailand, India, Pakistan, Middle
East, Africa, Great Britain &
Europe, 6 p.m.
Japan, 6 p.m.
By Surface
China, People's Republic, 10.30 a.m.
Malaya, 1 p.m.
Pakistan, (Portuguese India,
Parcel via Karachi), 1 p.m.
Japan, U.S.A., C. & S. America,
4 p.m.
Australia, 4 p.m.
Macao, 6 p.m.SATURDAY, JANUARY 28
By Surface
China, People's Republic, 10.30 a.m.
Malaya, 1 p.m.
Pakistan, (Portuguese India,
Parcel via Karachi), 1 p.m.
Japan, U.S.A., C. & S. America,
4 p.m.
Australia, 4 p.m.
Macao, 6 p.m.SUNDAY, JANUARY 29
By Surface
Macao, 1 p.m.
MONDAY, JANUARY 30
By Surface
Australia, New Zealand, 9 a.m.
Malaya, Ceylon, India, Aden,
Middle East, France, Great Britain
& Europe, 9 a.m.
China, People's Republic, 10.30 a.m.
Macao, 1 p.m.
Burma, 2 p.m.
Macao, 6 p.m.RAISING
YOUR HAT
— PRICESLondon, Jan. 24.
The price of hats will go up
in England this year as a result
of the rabbit disease, myxoma-
tosis, an official of a London
rabbit fur merchants predicts.
The disease has killed off most
of Britain's rabbits, and the furs
used in making hats now have
to be imported from as far away
as Australia.
Since the disease arrived in
Britain the price of imported
rabbit furs has increased from
six shillings sterling a dozen to
as much as 22 shillings a dozen,
he says.
He predicted that men's hats
will probably go up as much as
100 per cent in price this year.
—China Mail Special.Albanians Ease Attitude
Towards
Western Diplomats

Belgrade, Jan. 24.

The Albanian government is making life
easier for the small band of "Western" diplomats
stationed in the most isolated state of the Soviet
bloc, according to reports reaching here from
Tirana.But, economically, life for Albania's 1,394,810
inhabitants is reported to be as hard as ever, with
food ration cards, empty shop windows, and
prices above Albanian purses. A suit length of
western European cloth, according to the reports,
costs, at the official exchange rate, the equivalent
of 500 dollars (about \$170).The non-Soviet world's repre-
sentation in Albania is limited to
the Legations of France, Italy
and Yugoslavia. Instead of being
confined to the capital, diplomats
were recently informed that they
might move freely to the north
to Skutari, 60 miles away near
the Yugoslav border, and to the
south up to, but excluding, the
naval base of Valona, a distance
of about 85 miles.

Interests Of Peace

Recent statements by Albanian
leaders have emphasized a desire
for friendly relations with
Yugoslavia. The Prime Minister,
M. Mehmet Shehu, in a speech,
grouped Yugoslavia with North
Korea, Mongolia and Vietnam as
countries with whom Albania
would march forward in friend-
ship, in addition to the Soviet
Union, China, and the states of
Eastern Europe."The further positive develop-
ment of our relations with
Yugoslavia are in the interests
of the Albanian and Yugoslav
peoples, and also in the interests
of peace, democracy and
socialism," he declared.
Trade between the two coun-
tries had the modest target of
1,500,000 dollars (over £300,000)
both ways under the trade
agreement which expired at the
end of 1955. But until last spring
there was no trade between the
two countries at all. Political
relations were still strained in
August when, in a frontier in-
cident, Albanian guards shot
dead a Yugoslav shepherd.

Suspicious

In fact, Yugoslavia's trade with
Albania is stated here to have
been flowing more smoothly than
her trade with Rumania or
Bulgaria. It is expected that the
agreement for 1956 will increase
the total volume.In general, however, Yugo-
slavs are suspicious of developing
their relations with Albania too
quickly. The ghost of Koca
Xoxe, the Albanian government
leader who was executed in
1949 for "Titoism," still stands
in the way of genuine friend-
ship.The official Yugoslav news-
paper, Borba, reacted sharply in
October when the organ of the
Central Committee of the
Albanian Communist Party,
Ruga e Prilis, referred to Xoxe
as an enemy of the party, op-
portunism, Trotskyist and
careerist.Borba said that the least the
Albanians could have done, if
they did not have the courage
to admit what really happened
in this "monstrous trial" of the
"innocent Xoxe," would have
been to keep quiet and not men-
tion him.

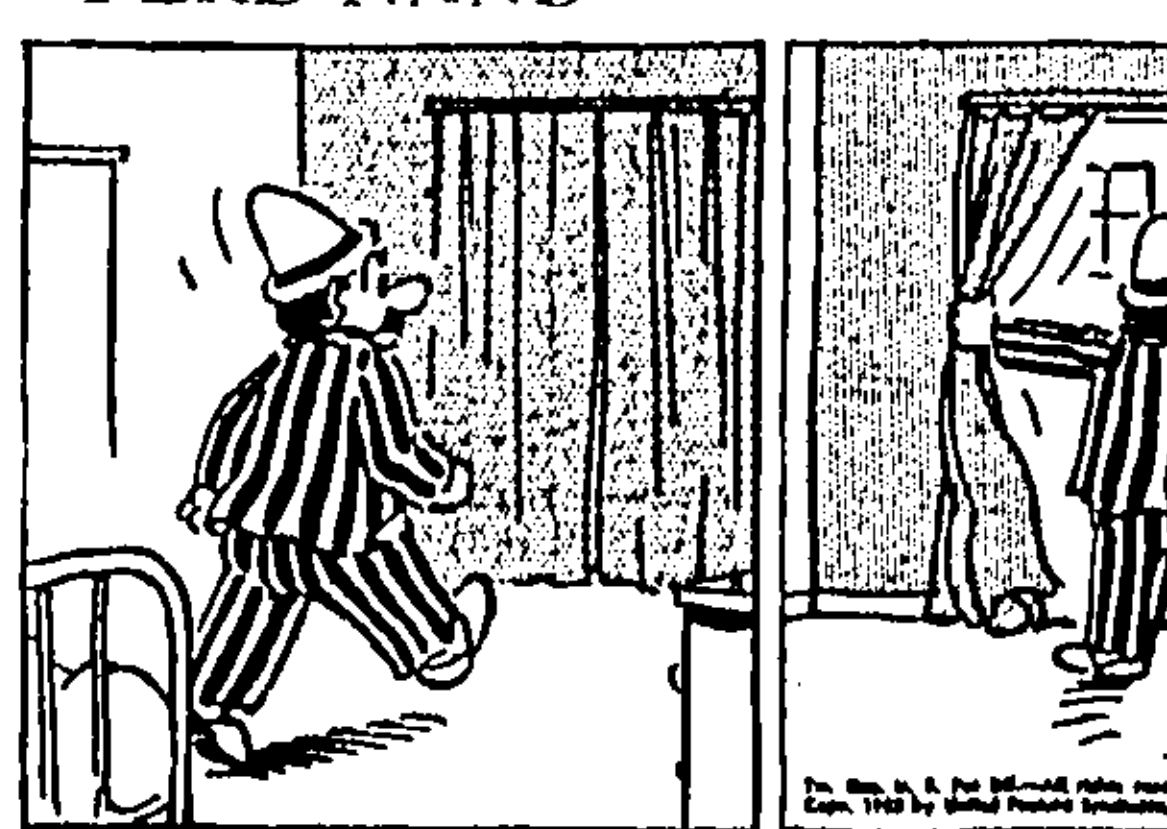
Empty Port

A Yugoslav journalist, who
visited the Albanian port of
Durazzo in a Yugoslav ship,
wrote less enthusiastically about
Albania than the Albanian press
has written about Yugoslavia.
He described in the Montene-
grin newspaper, Pobjeda, how
the port was empty, how the
dockers took unusually long to
handle the ship, how the railway
to the quayside was overgrown
with grass through lack of use,
and how the passengers were
not allowed to go ashore—China
Mail Special.Medals Galore
For The
OlympicsMelbourne, Jan. 24.
Commemorative medallions of
the 1956 Olympic Games at
Melbourne will be issued to
11,800 people, including com-
petitors and those who have
some role in staging the Games.
Among those to receive them
will be the Duke of Edinburgh,
who will perform the opening
ceremony, the Australian Prime
Minister Mr Robert Menzies,
who is President of the Games,
and the International Olympic
Committee President, Mr Avery
Brundage.The medallion, designed by
Hungarian-born sculptor Andor
Mészáros, now living in Mel-
bourne, will illustrate the mar-
shal past of the world's athletes,
with a figure carrying the
Olympic flag.
On the reverse side will be
the Coat of Arms of Melbourne
and the Olympic Games.
—China Mail Special.

MANDRAKE THE MAGICIAN



FERD'NAND



NANCY



JOHNNY HAZARD



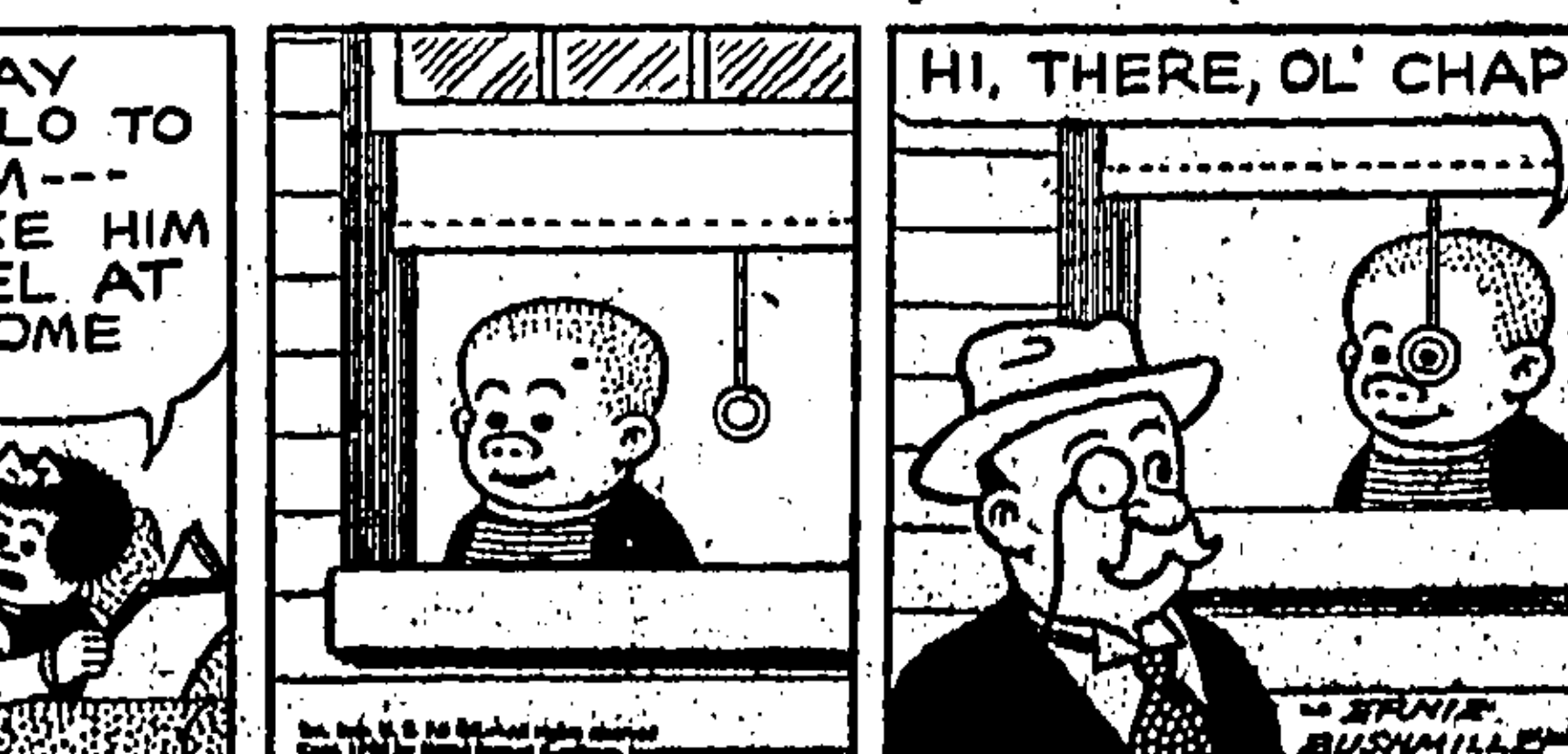
By Lee Falk and Phil Davis



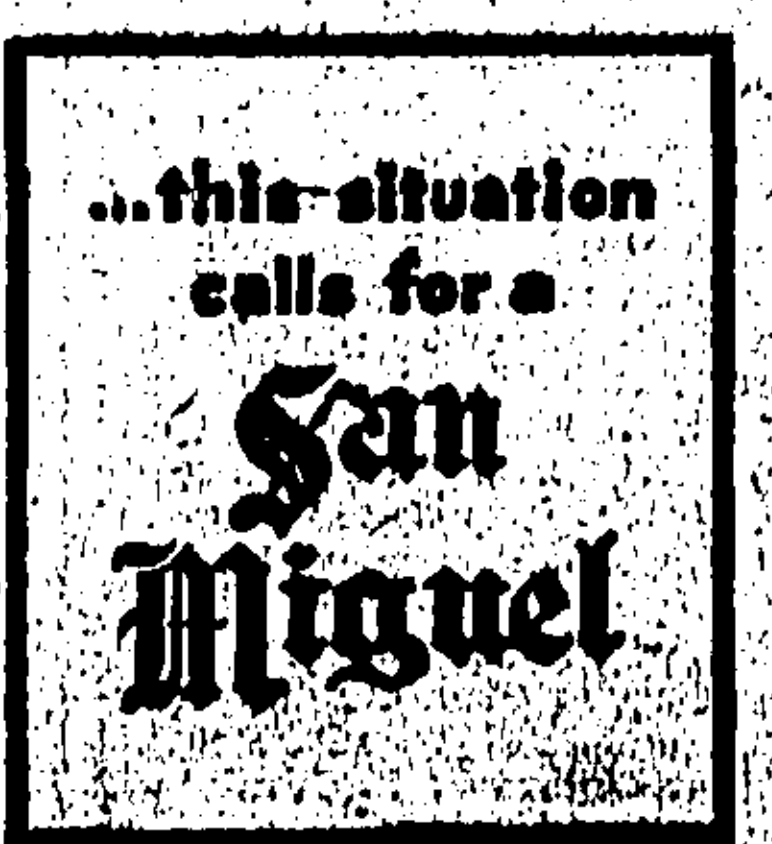
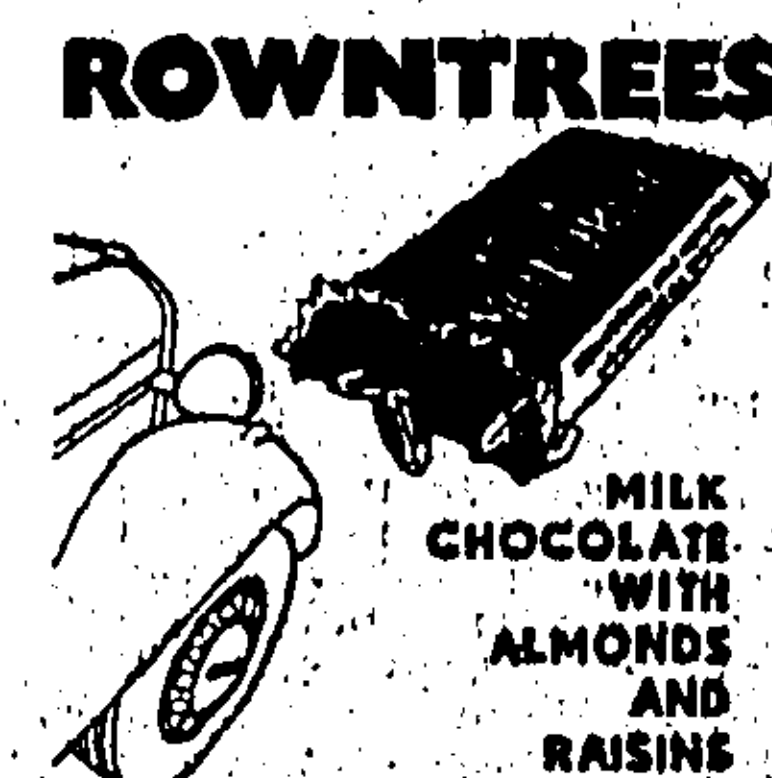
By Milk



By Ernie Bushmiller



By Frank Robbins



Prosperous Scots Seaweed Industry

Plans For Expansion Of Potentially Limitless Harvest

PI's Barter Trade With Iran

Manila, Jan. 24. The Foreign Office has instructed Ambassador to Britain Maria Guerrero to request the Iranian government to extend the period within which Japan may buy Iranian rice for barter with Philippine "D" sugar. It was learned

GATT Delegation Must Guard Own Secret List

Geneva, Jan. 24.

For printing of every day

Description Telephone: 20002

